

during April-June, 2000-2001 as compared to the trade deficit of US \$ 2369.37 million during same period last year leading to an increased demand of foreign currency. This is mainly due to the increase in value of oil imports.

Utilisation of a part of foreign currency by exporters abroad

† 2969. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved utilization of a part of foreign currency by exporters abroad out of the amount earned by them from exports;

(b) if so, the amount of this share; and

(c) the annual average amount utilized by Indian exporters abroad in the past few years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Exporters are allowed to retain a portion of their receipts in foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) Account with authorized dealers, in India. Exporters can freely use the funds held in their EEFC accounts for all transactions of current account in nature. 100% Export Oriented Units and Units in Export Processing Zones/Software Technology Parks/Electronic Hardware Technology Parks are allowed to credit upto 35% of their export earning to EEFC accounts. Other exporters can credit 25% of their export earnings to EEFC accounts. Authorised Dealers are permitted to open and maintain such EEFC accounts.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India does not compile information regarding the amount utilized by Indian exporters abroad out of their EEFC balances.

WPI for primary commodities and manufactured products

2970. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5185 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th May, 2000 and state:

(a) the item-wise WPI for each week for primary commodities starting with 1st April, 2000 and ending with 15th July, 2000;

(b) the item-wise WPI for each week for manufactured products starting with 1st April, 2000 and ending with 15th July, 2000:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.